

MARVEL

# INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

#11

BENDIS • CASELLI • NIEMCZYK • SOMA • MIZUSHIMA • GRACIA



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**INHUMANS**  
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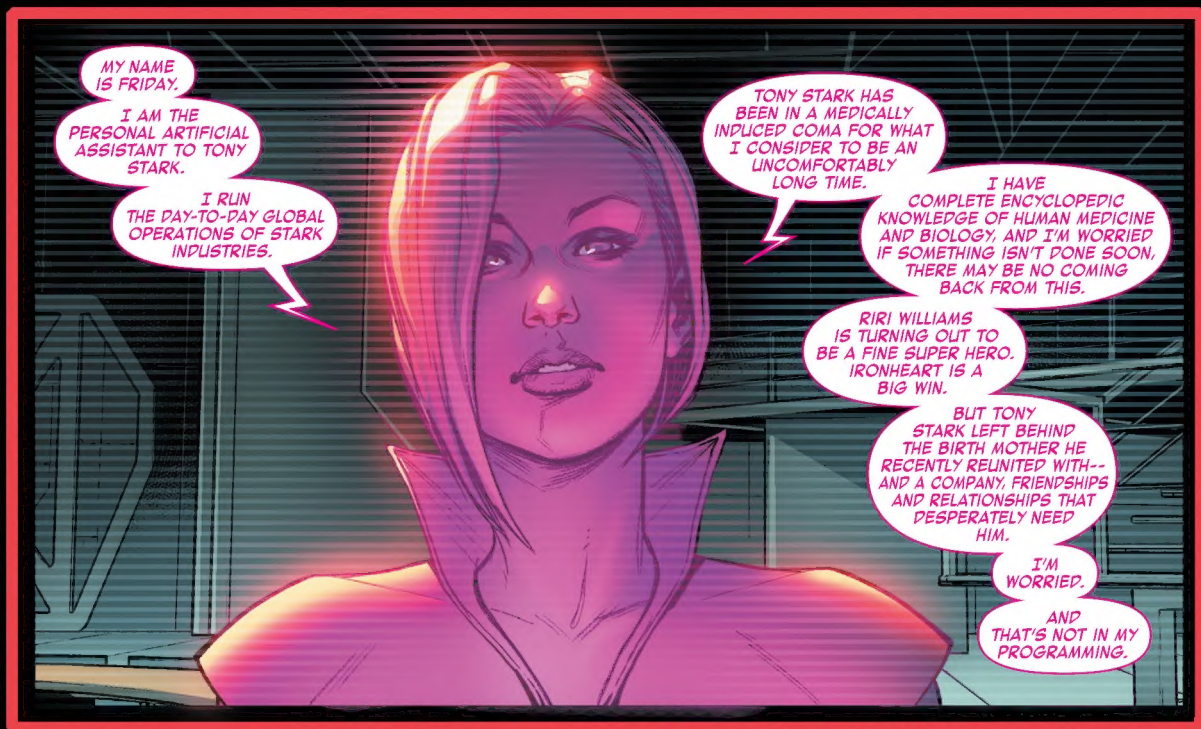


# INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

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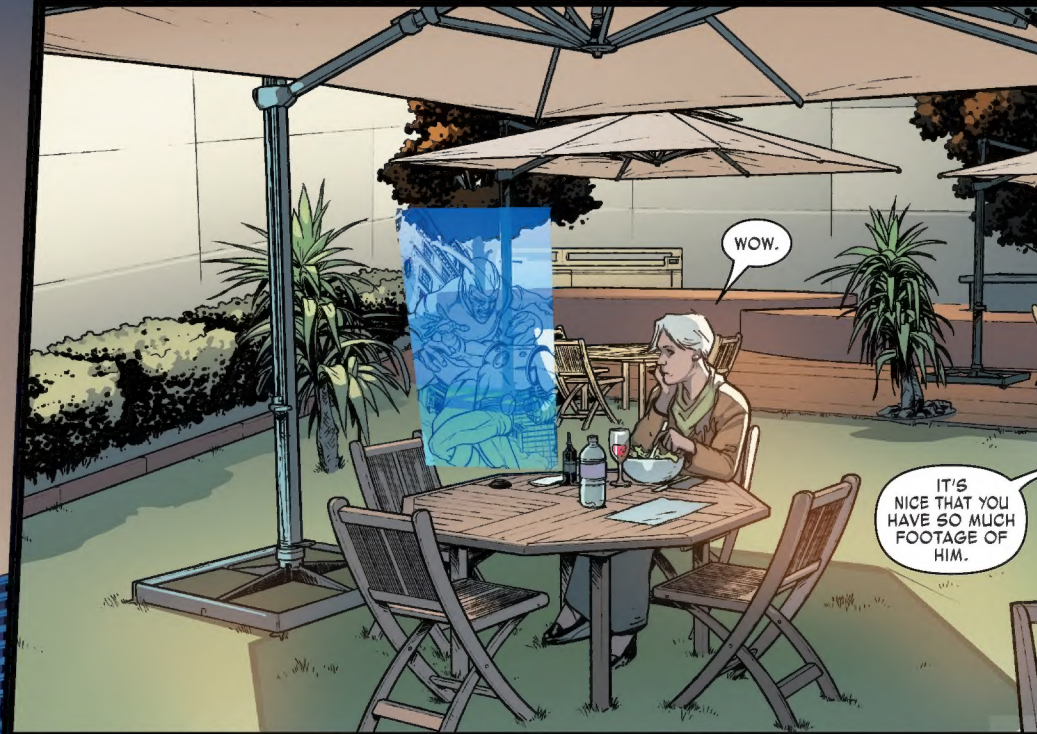


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"SO, IN MY YOUTH, I WAS AN INTERNATIONAL RUNWAY MODEL..."

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY THAT LIKE YOU'RE EMBARRASSED."

"I DON'T. I'M NOT."

"IT'S JUST A WEIRD THING TO SAY OUT LOUD."

"HI, I'M SOMEONE WHO USED TO TRADE ON HER GOOD LOOKS."

"THIRTY YEARS AGO, I HAD THE NUMBER ONE SONG AROUND THE WORLD, AND IN IT I LISTED ALL THE MEN I HAD BEEN WITH."

"WELL, ANYWAY, I WAS YOUNG, I WAS IN MILAN FOR THE FIRST TIME AND I WAS SCARED OUT OF MY MIND BECAUSE..."

"...WELL, AS YOU KNOW FROM WATCHING ANYTHING THAT EVER AIRED ON THE BRAVO CHANNEL--"

"--THE RUNWAY ITSELF IS THE MOST SANE PART OF THE WHOLE PLACE."

"THE REST WAS CRAZY."

"AND THAT WAS BEFORE TONY STARK BARGED IN..."

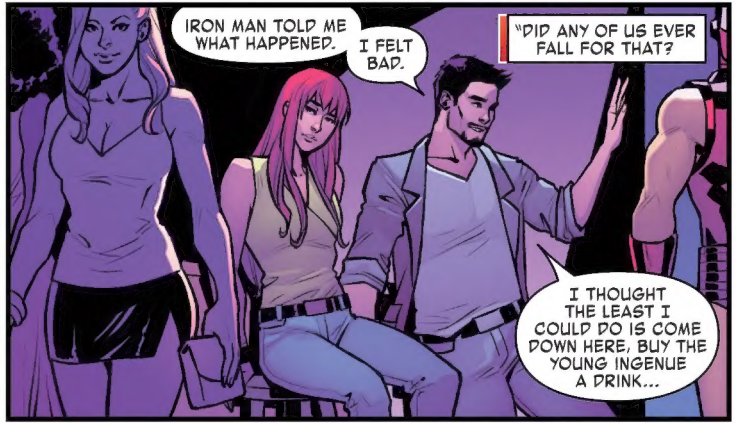
















BECAUSE MY HONEST  
IS KIND OF GARBAGE  
TERRIBLE.

IT'S A SHALLOW,  
CONFUSED, DARK  
PLACE...



AND  
IT'S A LITTLE  
DRUNK.



BECAUSE  
IT'S SHALLOW,  
CONFUSED AND...  
YOU GET  
IT.



"I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY I DIDN'T LEAVE.

"IT WASN'T  
THE MONEY  
OR THE FAME.

"ALMOST  
EVERYONE THERE  
HAD ONE OR  
THE OTHER OR  
BOTH.



"THERE WAS  
SOMETHING ELSE.

"HE WASN'T  
HITTING ON  
ME.

"ANYMORE.

"IT'S LIKE HE CAME  
THERE SPECIFICALLY  
TO HIT ON ME, BUT THEN  
HE GOT THERE, AND..."

DO YOU  
LIKE YOUR  
DAD?



NOT  
PARTICULARLY.

Y'HAVE  
A MEAN  
DAD?

YEAH.

ME TOO.

HE WAS  
SOOOO MAD AT  
THE WORLD, AND MY  
GENERAL EXISTENCE  
WASN'T HELPING  
HIM GET OVER  
IT.

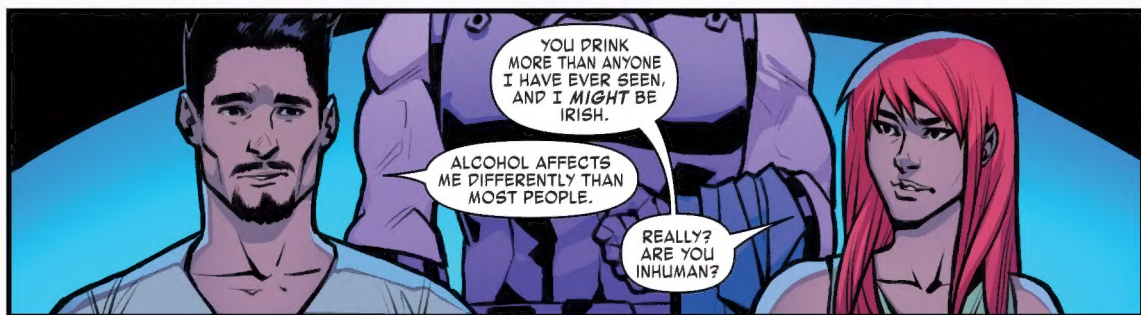
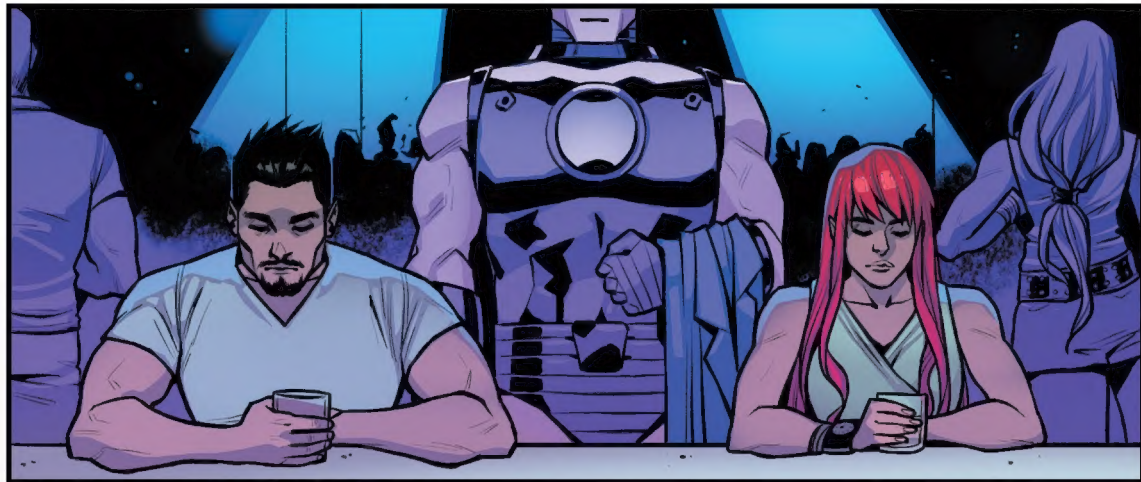


HE SEES  
YOU STANDING  
THERE AND INSTEAD  
OF SEEING  
LEGACY...

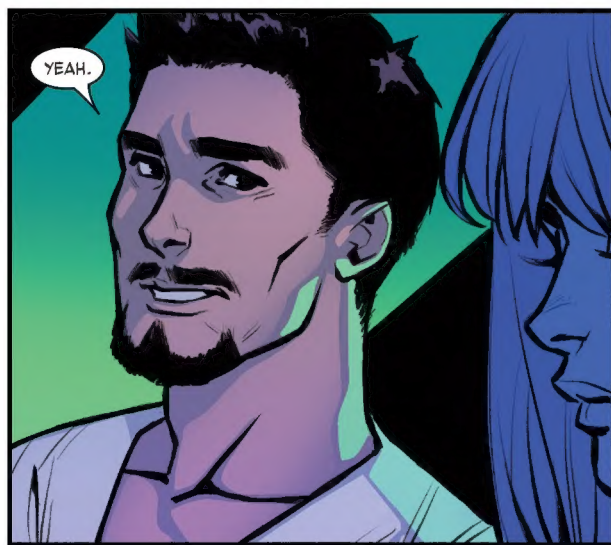
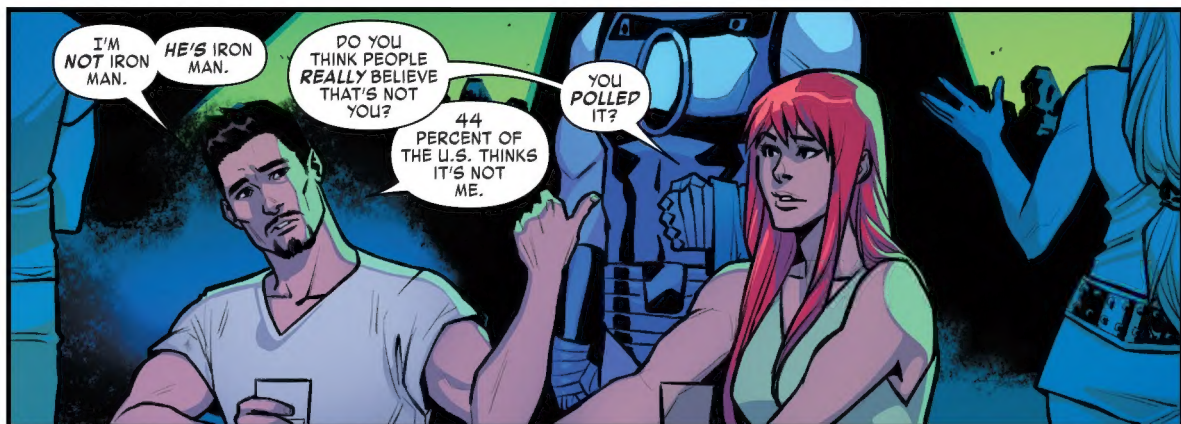
...ALL  
HE SEES ARE MISSED  
OPPORTUNITIES.

@@@% YOU,  
HOWARD.

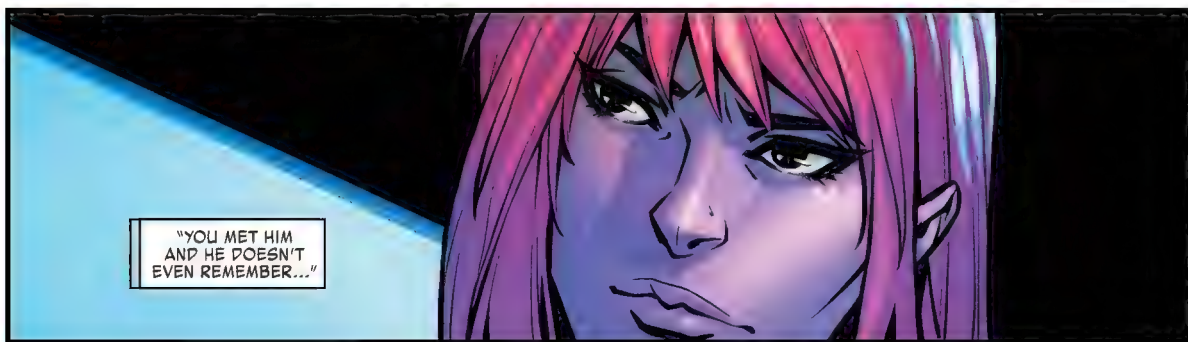
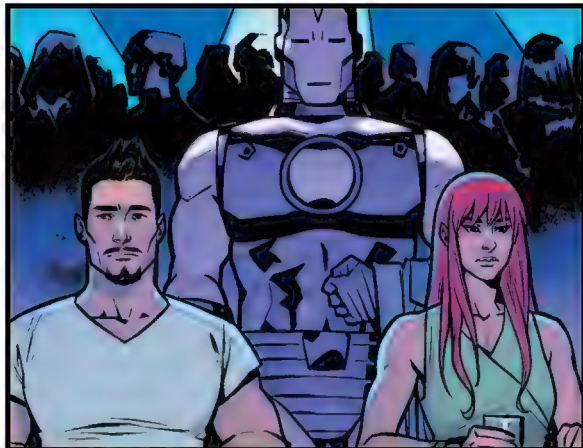






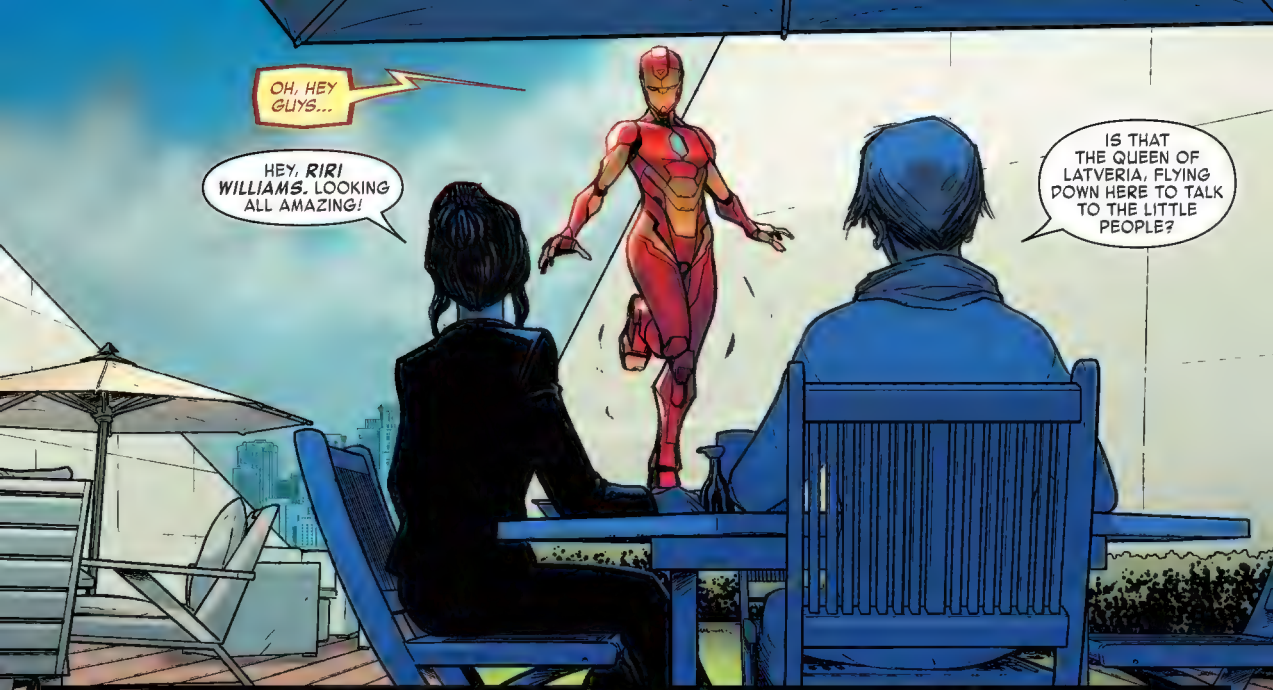






"YOU MET HIM  
AND HE DOESN'T  
EVEN REMEMBER..."





OH, HEY  
GUYS...

HEY, RIRI  
WILLIAMS. LOOKING  
ALL AMAZING!

IS THAT  
THE QUEEN OF  
LATVERIA, FLYING  
DOWN HERE TO TALK  
TO THE LITTLE  
PEOPLE?



RETIRED  
QUEEN OF  
LATVERIA.

YOU  
HANDLED THAT  
WHOLE SITUATION  
PRETTY  
GREAT.

WHAT  
ARE YOU GUYS  
DOING?



LUNCH.

MANY JANE WAS  
JUST TELLING ME HOW MY YOUNG,  
PUNK, DRUNK OF A SON ONCE HIT  
ON HER AT A PARTY.

DID YOU  
GUYS--?

RIRI!

IT DOES  
HAPPEN.



THAT'S  
SO FUNNY--YOU  
KNOW, I MET TONY  
BEFORE,  
TOO.

BEFORE  
WHEN?

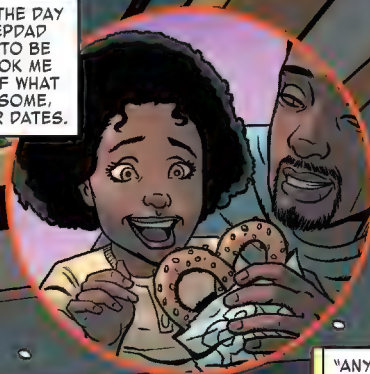
YOU'RE  
SIX YEARS  
OLD.



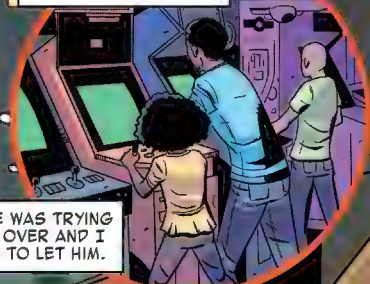
DO YOU  
GUYS REMEMBER  
THE SKRULLS?



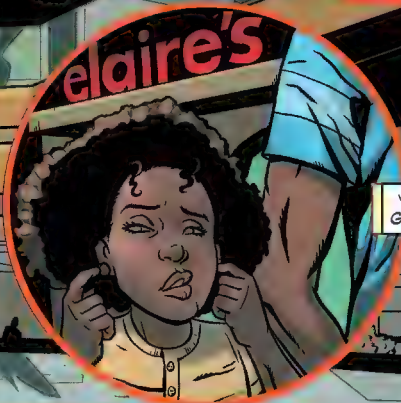
"I REMEMBER IT WAS THE DAY MY SOON-TO-BE STEPPAD DECIDED HE WANTED TO BE MY STEPPAD, AND TOOK ME OUT FOR THE FIRST OF WHAT WOULD BE MANY AWESOME, CHILL DADDY-DAUGHTER DATES.



"IF YOU EVER HAVE A DAUGHTER, I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THEM! THEY ARE THERAPEUTIC AND JUST **EMPOWERING**, IN A WEIRD WAY.



"ANYWAY, HE WAS TRYING TO WIN ME OVER AND I WAS EAGER TO LET HIM.



"IT WAS A GREAT DAY.

"MY FIRST RATED R MOVIE (A COMEDY).



"BUT **SOMETHING** WAS GOING ON.



"THERE WAS THIS REALLY WEIRD VIBE COMING FROM OUTSIDE AND NO ONE SEEMED ABLE TO TALK ABOUT IT.



"WE PEEKED OUT AND...





"...ALIEN  
INVASION.

"THE  
SKRULLS.

"THE SHAPE-SHIFTING  
SKRULLS HAD COME  
TO TAKE EARTH FOR  
THEMSELVES.

"YOU GUYS  
REMEMBER  
THAT? SURE.

"UP UNTIL THAT  
MOMENT IT WAS THE  
CRAZIEST THING I  
HAD EVER SEEN.

"THEN I TURNED  
AROUND..."





"MAN, MY NEW STEPPAD  
DIDN'T EVEN THINK.

"HE JUST GRABBED  
ME RIGHT OFF MY  
FEET AND RAN.

"I THINK THAT'S  
WHY IT TOOK ME  
A SECOND TO  
FIGURE OUT...



"...WE WEREN'T  
ON THE GROUND  
ANYMORE.

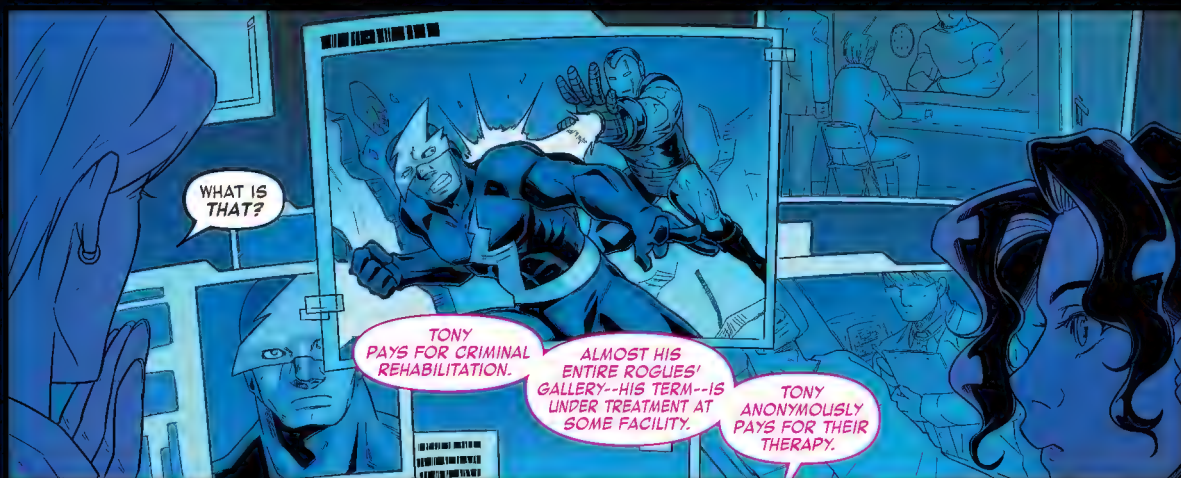










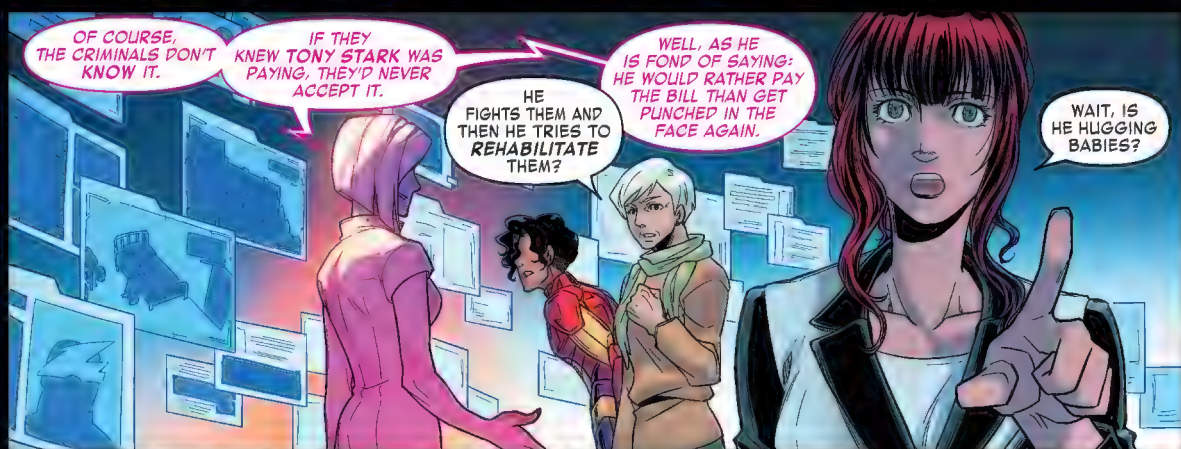


WHAT IS THAT?

TONY PAYS FOR CRIMINAL REHABILITATION.

ALMOST HIS ENTIRE ROGUES' GALLERY--HIS TERM--IS UNDER TREATMENT AT SOME FACILITY.

TONY ANONYMOUSLY PAYS FOR THEIR THERAPY.



OF COURSE, THE CRIMINALS DON'T KNOW IT.

IF THEY KNEW TONY STARK WAS PAYING, THEY'D NEVER ACCEPT IT.

HE FIGHTS THEM AND THEN HE TRIES TO REHABILITATE THEM?

WELL, AS HE IS FOND OF SAYING: HE WOULD RATHER PAY THE BILL THAN GET PUNCHED IN THE FACE AGAIN.

WAIT, IS HE HUGGING BABIES?



OH, YEAH--WELL, AMANDA IN PARTICULAR, I THINK YOU'LL LOVE THIS.

SO, IN LOOKING FOR YOU, HIS BIRTH MOTHER, WE VISITED A FEW INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICES AND ORPHANAGES.

THEY, OF COURSE, ALL NEEDED MORE.

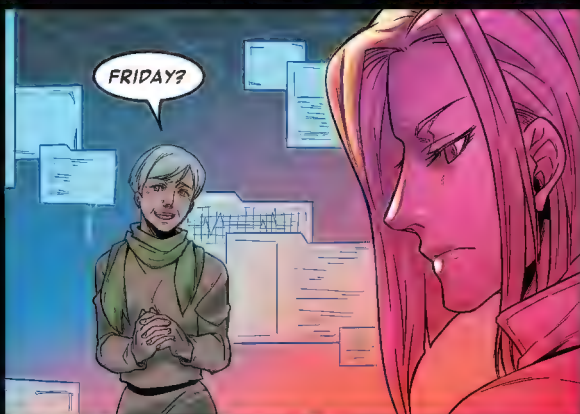
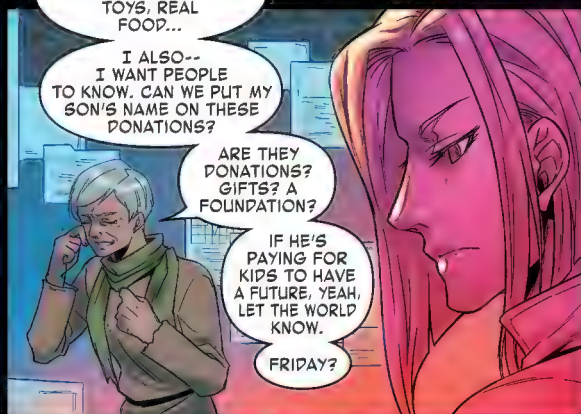
STARK TOOK HIS ENTIRE PERSONAL FOUNDATION AND PUT IT TOWARD FUNDING AS MANY ORPHANAGES AS HE COULD.

PARTICULARLY THE ONES IN TROUBLED AREAS.

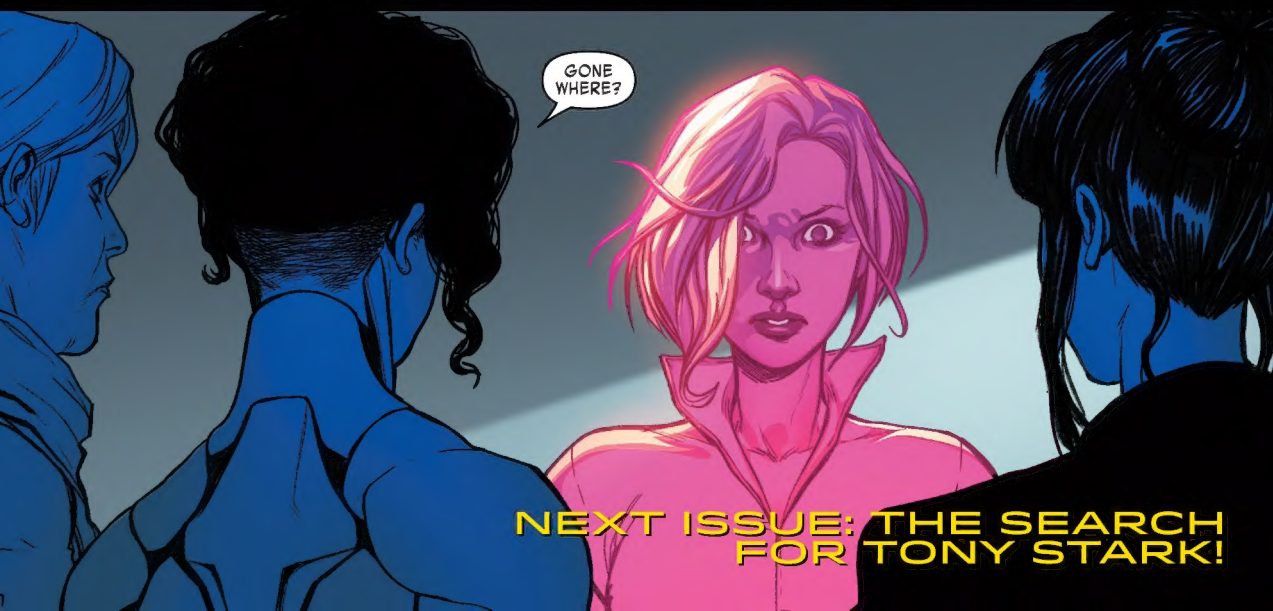
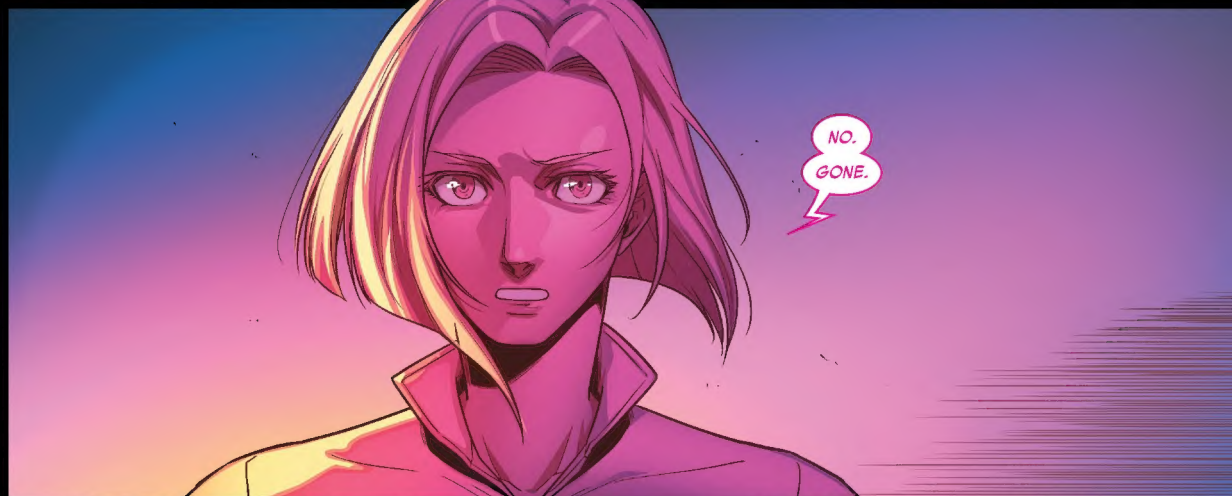
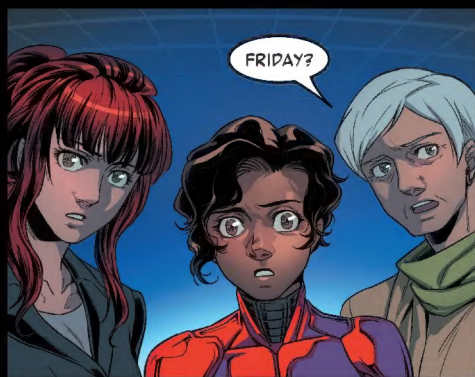
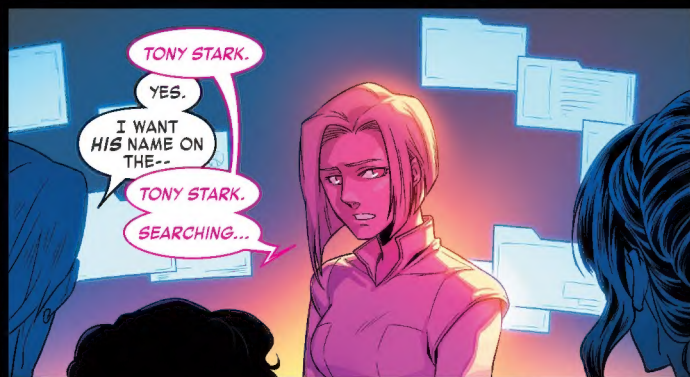
HE LIKES TO VISIT.

AND HE HUGS THE BABIES?









**NEXT ISSUE: THE SEARCH FOR TONY STARK!**



Hi. It's Brian. I've been writing IRON MAN for a few years but this is my first letter column. I wanted to take a moment to talk about this issue. We have some VERY special guest artists with us, which I will get to in a minute, but I wanted to tell you about who this issue is dedicated to and why.

I live in Portland, Oregon. When you move to a new neighborhood, one of the big X factors is your neighbors. Who will they be? Will we like each other? Will we go to war over a shrub? We had just left one of those great old neighborhoods where we became friends and family with almost all of our neighbors. We were worried about missing out on that special feeling.

That's when we met our NEW cross-the-street neighbors of the last seven years... the Cheeks. Let me tell you about Dick Cheek. Make the jokes. He's heard them all.

His name is Richard Cheek and I soon found out he's a real super hero.

Dick and his wife, Helen, both in their eighties, and their eight adult children(!) are just amazing people. Great positive energy EVERYWHERE they go. Big on community. BIG on helping out anyone who needs a little help, be it through church, community organizing or just looking out. Almost to an unbelievable degree.

I could literally spend this entire issue listing kindnesses I know of or witnessed them do. It's exhaustive. It's crazy. Who is this nice? For all these years, they did us neighborly kindnesses that we never asked for. Did I say he was in his eighties? Yes. But you couldn't tell. Such a zest for life.

It just so happened, after the first time I had met him, I had to run off to a Marvel retreat. In the cab on the way to the airport, the cab driver looked at Dick's house, turned to me and said: "Oh my God! You live across the street from the Cheeks. He saved my father's life in the war. He's a genuine war hero. I wouldn't be here if not for him. Has he ever told you about that?"

The next time I got a chance to ask him, he blew it off warmly and just chuckled. Then, I heard from his children that he was the real deal.

I will honor his service by not speaking of things he clearly did not want spoken of...but he was a war hero.

As our relationship developed over the years, he told me that his priest happened to be a huge comic book fan and wanted to talk to me about the spirituality of comics over dinner. The Jew in me expected a "hip" younger priest into SPIDER-MAN or GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. You know, for the kids! I was surprised to find this big, gray-haired, Brian-Denhehy-with-a-priest-collar shake my hand and say, "I love ALIAS and Powers." To have a man of the cloth tell you how much he loves your basically rated R work was the beginning of a surreal and spiritually exciting dinner. One of the most fun dinners I've ever had. It changed my

work. For the better.

So over the last few years, my wife started including the Cheeks at our semi-regular Friday night dinners. A dinner MOSTLY for our Portland comics peer group. So many of my friends, who just happen to be some of your favorite comic creators, have become big fans and friends of the Cheeks as well.

Well, as it goes, this summer both Helen and Dick started to feel their age. I was at their 65th wedding anniversary party, and they showed a slide show of family, mountain hiking, world travel and real adventure that was awe-inspiring to say the least. When the Cheeks started to slow down you could feel it.

Dick's health started to slip and he had been in hospice for most of the summer. We would visit and Helen would be frustrated that she was in the hospital because Dick needed her...and he said the exact same thing about her. Just heartwarming. My wife and I have been happily married for over 20 years and it gave US relationship goals.

During his time in hospice, Dick came over. He could feel everyone's stress about the situation. He came over just to tell me, "Hey, tell everyone that I'm okay. That I've lived a long and fortunate life. My kids are amazing, my wife loves me and I think I left the world a little better than the way I found it. I'm really okay with everything that's happening now. I'm good to go."

And then he said, after attending dozens of dinners at my house with all of your favorite kind of comic creators, "Hey, did I ever tell you that I was friends with Walt Kelly?"

After seven years of knowing each other, I turned to him and said with an incredulous smile, "No, Dick, I did not know you were friends with one of the greatest cartoonists of all time." He then pulled out the correspondence between the two of them, and the original art that Walt Kelly had given him as a present, and some other insane Walt Kelly memorabilia. I was blown away, and I told our mutual friend, and one of the artists of this issue, Taki Soma--and Taki said, "That's my favorite artist of all time." I guess I'm not surprised, but I am surprised, because when I told Dick, he gave Taki and me his Walt Kelly original art, memorabilia and correspondence.

I didn't want to take it. He has kids. They should have it. I told the sons. They made it very clear that Dick wanted us to have it. I said I could donate it to a library cartoonist archive. I was told no. He wanted us to have it. It might even be why we met, so one of his lifelong prize possessions could have a truly appreciative home.

Seven years and this war-hero super hero never told me he was one of us. Secret nerd!

The reason this specific issue is dedicated to him is that a couple weeks ago, his son walked over just to say hi to my wife and me. Stunned to have just learned this himself,

he asked us, "Did you know that my father, when he has time, goes to hospitals and just holds the babies?"

We were as stunned as he was. Who does that? Who does that and doesn't tell anybody?

Yeah, the most unbelievable concept in this issue was based on the true Dick Cheek. I was told this as I was thinking, what's the coolest thing Tony Stark could've done that no one knows he's done? I really wrote that question down for this issue and then Dick's son comes over and drops this on me.

So, inspired, I wrote this issue and I went over and I told them. Of course, he was a little embarrassed, but his wife and his kids were thrilled.

Then this issue started to reveal a fragmented structure, and I thought this gave us this great opportunity to spotlight some different artists for this issue. Stefano was going to need a little bit of a break to get to our big legacy story next issue anyhow, and I thought this was a great opportunity to join Kelly Sue DeConnick's "Visible Women" Twitter campaign and shine a spotlight on some female creators in this book filled with female voices. And now Taki Soma makes her Marvel Comics debut for an issue especially dedicated to a good friend of both of ours. He gave us something special to keep of his and we wanted to give you something of him.

Kate Niemczyk blew me away with her work on MOCKINGBIRD, and I have been dying to do something with her--and Tom Brevoort, in his travels, showed me the world of Kiichi Mizushima. It's like she fell out of the sky to bring the perfect voice to her chapter. I would like to report that, behind the scenes, Stefano and all the artists had an amazing creative experience. They have been emailing all month. The book was made with love from beginning to end, just like the man the book is dedicated to.

The reason I'm telling you all of this is, about two hours ago, he passed away. In my heart, I hoped that I could give him this issue before he passed, but he passed this morning before it went to print.

I don't know when you'll be reading this, but if you're reading it the day it came out, I think you can agree that the world has been a hot mess lately. One of my personal ways of dealing with the stress of it is knowing that there are people in the world like the Cheeks.

I thought you'd like a reminder, too. They are people who do kindnesses because that's what you're supposed to do. In his honor, today, if you find someone that needs a little kindness, maybe stop and do it. Do that.

Be an honest-to-goodness real super hero like Dick Cheek. A kindness is all it takes.

-BENDIS!

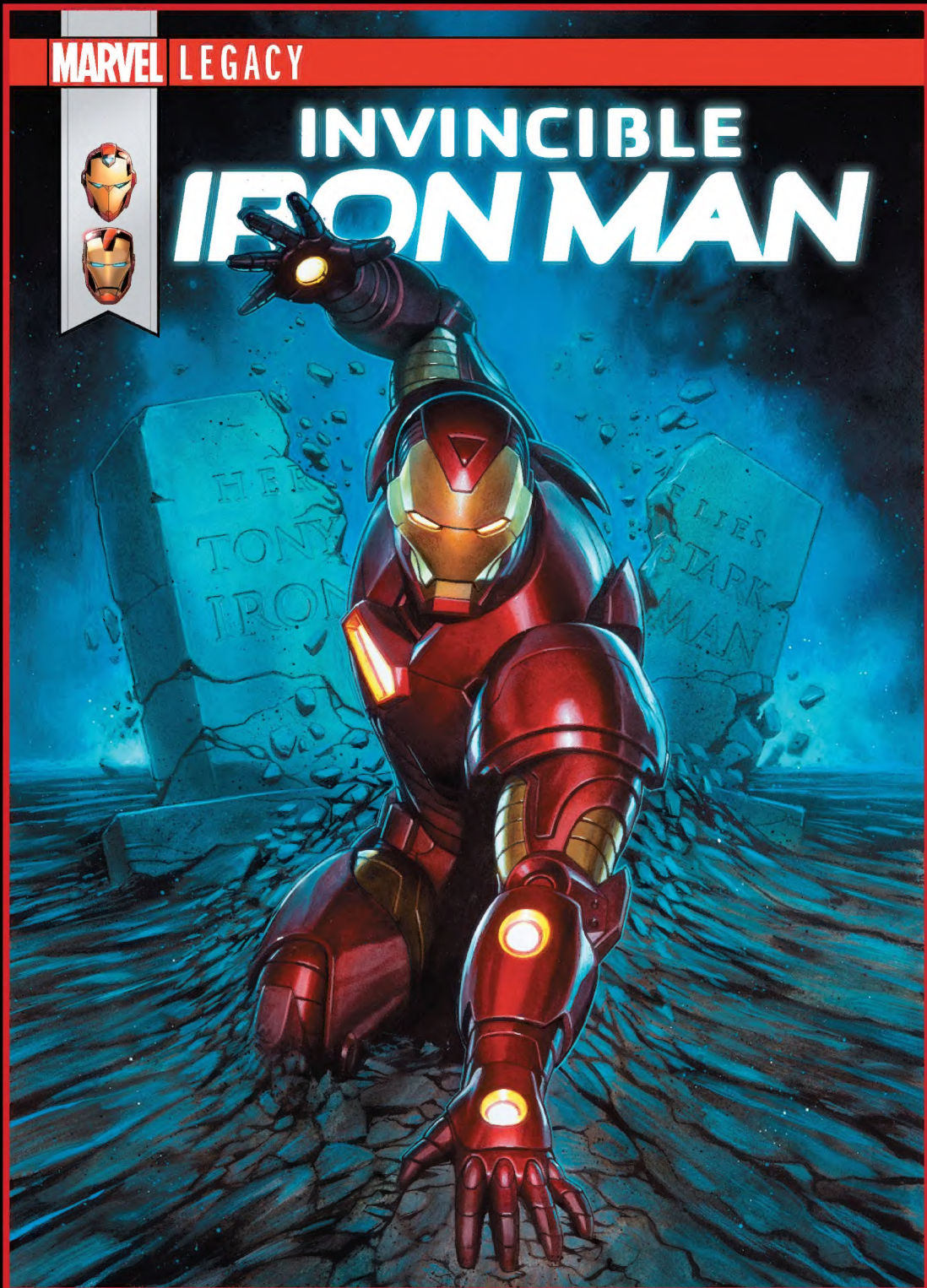


**NEXT ISSUE:  
INVINCIBLE IRON  
MAN # 593!**

**MARVEL** LEGACY



# INVINCIBLE IRON MAN



**THE SEARCH FOR  
TONY STARK!**





AN  ROBOROS  
RELEASE - DCP